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(54) **Solar control glass and glazings**

(57) The same green glass composition, containing from 0.9% to 1.15% total iron (measured as Fe_2O_3), at a ferrous iron to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, is found to provide substantially optimum solar control performance in 3.5 mm toughened automotive glazings (required light transmission of at least 70%), laminated

automotive windshields (produced using a standard 2.1 mm thickness tinted outer ply with a clear glass inner ply) having a required light transmission of at least 75%, and laminated automotive side glazings, having a thickness of about 4 mm with a required light transmission of at least 70%.

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Description

The invention relates to high performance solar control glasses for use in automotive glazing, and to automotive glazings composed thereof.

It has previously been proposed, in EP 0 469 446B, to produce green tinted, ultra-violet absorbing glasses for use in automotive glazing by using a colourant portion containing iron in an amount of at least 0.85% by weight and up to 0.5% cerium. To achieve the desired ultra violet absorbance, this patent proposes to use either more than 0.2% by weight cerium, or an unusually low ratio of ferrous iron to ferric iron such that the ratio of ferrous iron (calculated as weight of ferrous oxide) to total iron (calculated as weight of ferric oxide) is about 0.16. All the Examples relate to glasses 3.9 mm thick.

EP 0 598 305A similarly relates to green tinted, ultra-violet absorbing glasses for use in automotive glazing, but proposes to achieve the desired ultra-violet absorbance by using increased levels of titania in place of either the ceria or the low ratio of ferrous to ferric iron used in EP 0 469 446B. The twenty four Examples in this application all have total iron contents in the range 0.65% to 0.93% and twenty one of the twenty four contain titania in an amount of 0.15% by weight or more.

EP 0 644 164A also relates to an iron containing solar control glass for use in automotive glazing, and aims to produce optimum properties in a glass thickness in the range 3.0 to 3.3 mm. The single example has a colourant portion comprising 0.95% by weight of iron (calculated as ferric oxide) and a ratio of ferrous iron (calculated as weight of ferrous oxide) to total iron (calculated as weight of ferric oxide) of 0.30.

EP 0 644 164A envisages producing a solar control glass with its properties optimised for automotive use over a particular commonly used glass thickness range. It would not normally be considered economic to optimise solar control glass components for other less commonly used glass thickness in view of the lower volumes involved. However, we have now found that a tinted glass composition providing substantially optimum solar control properties for use in producing monolithic toughened vehicle windows of thickness around 3.5 mm requiring a visible light transmission of 70% is also suitable, when used at a standard outer pane thickness of about 2.1 mm in conjunction with a clear inner pane, for the production of laminated windshields having a substantially optimised solar control performance for the required windshield light transmission of at least 75%. Further, the same glass may be used to provide laminated side and rear glazings comprising two panes of the same tinted glass composition each having a thickness of about 1.7 mm, said laminated glazings having a visible light transmission of at least 70% providing a substantially optimised solar control performance. We have further found that a glass of appropriate properties may be produced using, as colourant, iron in an amount (calculated as Fe_2O_3) of from 0.9% to 1.15% by weight, and at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35.

Thus the invention provides the use, for automotive glazings, of a glass in a thickness of about 3.5 mm or about 2.1 mm or about 1.7 mm having a composition comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35.

According to one aspect of the invention there is provided an automotive glazing comprising a toughened glass pane having a thickness in the range 3.3 mm to 3.8 mm, preferably 3.4 to 3.6 mm, and a composition comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35 whereby the glazing has a light transmission of at least 70% and a direct solar heat transmission of less than 46%, preferably less than 45%.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a laminated automotive windshield comprising a glass pane having a thickness in the range 1.9 mm to 2.3 mm and a composition comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, laminated to a clear glass pane whereby the windshield has a light transmission of at least 75% and a direct solar heat transmission of less than 56%, preferably less than 55%.

The said glass pane comprising iron as colourant preferably has a thickness of about 2.1 mm, and the clear glass pane preferably has a thickness of about 1.5 mm. It is preferred to use the pane comprising iron as colourant as the outer pane.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a laminated automotive glazing, being a side glazing or rear glazing, comprising two panes each of thickness in the range 1.5 mm to 1.8 mm, preferably 1.6 mm to 1.75 mm, and a composition comprising, as colorant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, whereby the glazing has a light transmission of at least 75% and a direct solar heat transmission less than 46%, preferably less than 45%.

According to a still further aspect of the invention there is provided a process for the production of glass with optimised properties for the production of automotive glazing which comprises preparing a glass melt comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, with a ferrous iron to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, and successively forming molten glass of said composition into glass sheet of at least two different thicknesses one of said at least two different thicknesses being in one of the three ranges

3.3 mm to 3.8 mm

1.9 mm to 2.3 mm

1.5 mm to 1.8 mm

and another of the said different thicknesses being in a different one of said three ranges.

In a preferred production process, the molten glass is successively formed into glass sheet of three different thicknesses, each of said thicknesses being within a different one of said ranges.

Obviously, the different (thickness) glass sheets may be produced in any order, and possibly with sheets of the same composition but an additional thickness produced in between (indeed, in practice, a ribbon of intermediate thickness will inevitably be produced on transition between any two thicknesses). Whatever the order of production, the important advantage is that two different products, each optimised for a different purpose, can be produced without the need for a time consuming change of composition, and consequently without any glass loss resulting from a need to change composition (and with only the relatively minor glass loss which inevitably results from the thickness change).

The total iron content of the glass is calculated as ferric oxide. The light transmission is measured using C.I.E. Illuminant A over the wavelength range 360 nm to 780 nm at 10 nm intervals; the direct solar heat transmission (DSHT) is the direct solar heat transmitted at Air Mass 2 (simulating rays from the sun incident at an angle of 30°) measured over the wavelength range 300 to 2100 nm at 50 nm intervals. All the transmissions referred to in the present specification and claims are calculated by applying the rectangular rule to the measured values.

Suitable ferrous to total iron ratios used are readily achieved by most modern float glass plants and do not require special conditions. It is generally preferred to operate at a ratio of at least 0.20 and less than 0.27, especially between 0.22 and 0.26.

The glasses of the present invention are green in colour, and will preferably exhibit a dominant wavelength in the range 495 - 520 nm and an excitation purity of 2 - 5%.

The iron oxide used in accordance with the present invention may be incorporated in a standard soda lime silica glass. Such glasses typically have a composition with the following ranges:

SiO ₂	65% - 75% (by weight)
Na ₂ O	10% - 18%
K ₂ O	0% - 5%
MgO	0% - 5%
CaO	4% - 14%
Al ₂ O ₃	0% - 5%

In addition to the iron, they may contain other additives, including melting and refining aids such as sulphate and carbon sources and/or impurities, provided the specified properties are achieved. If desired, titanium may be added (for example by feeding iron as ilmenite), usually in amounts of up to about 0.5% by weight, although generally no more than impurity amounts, i.e. less than 0.1%, normally less than 0.05% by weight, will be present, in order to avoid the effect of yellowing the colour of the glass. When titanium is added, the dominant wavelength will rise, possibly to 540 nm, depending on the amount of titanium present, although dominant wavelengths less than 515 nm are preferred.

Cobalt may be added in trace amounts to modify the colour of the glass.

The accompanying Table 1 sets out details of the colourant composition, pane thickness, and corresponding properties of exemplary toughened monolithic automotive glazings. In each case, the glazing is fabricated from a glass produced by incorporating the colourants in a base glass containing, in percentages by weight:

72.8%	SiO ₂
1.0%	Al ₂ O ₃
12.9%	Na ₂ O
0.6%	K ₂ O
8.4%	CaO
4.0%	MgO
0.2%	SO ₂

The total iron content is specified in weight percent ferric oxide (Fe₂O₃) assuming all the iron is present as ferric oxide. References to the ratio of ferrous iron to total iron in the present specification and claims are reference to ratios determined optically and given by the following formula, in which T_{1000nm} is the percentage transmission of radiation of wavelength 1000 nm through a sample of glass L mm thick, and Fe₂O₃ is the total iron content of the glass (calculated as ferric oxide) as the percentage by weight

$$\text{Ratio ferrous iron/total iron} = \frac{[\log_{10} (\frac{100}{T_{1000\text{nm}}}) - 0.036] 1.152}{L \times \text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3}$$

The resultant value represents the proportion of the iron content which is present in the ferrous (as opposed to ferric) state. LT represents the percentage of visible light transmitted and DSHT represents the direct solar heat transmission both measured and calculated as described above. "UV ISO" is the ultra violet transmission of the glass over the wavelength range 280 nm to 380 nm in 10 nm intervals in accordance with ISO 9050, while "UV Parry Moon" is the ultra violet transmission measured over the wavelength range 300 nm to 400 nm at 10 nm intervals under Parry Moon 1940 Observer Conditions at Air Mass 2.

Table 2 shows the properties of exemplary laminated automotive windshields produced using a tinted outer pane of the thickness specified of the glass composition of Example 5, Example 6 or Example 9 laminated to a clear 2.1 mm inner pane with a 0.76 mm polyvinylbutyral interlayer.

Table 3 shows the properties of exemplary laminated automotive side glazings comprising two tint panes each of the thickness specified of the glass composition of Examples 5 or Example 6 laminated together with a 0.76 mm polyvinylbutyral interlayer.

Looking at the glazings obtained using the glasses of Examples 5 and 6, it will be seen that

(a) high performance (DSHTs of 44.0% and 42.3%) solar control toughened automotive glazings of thickness about 3.5 mm suitable for use where a light transmission of at least 70% is required, for example, for front side glazings (Table 1),

(b) high performance (DSHTs of 54.4% and below) solar control laminated automotive windshields with an outer tinted pane thickness of about 2.1 mm (and the regulation minimum 75% light transmission, see Table 2) and

(c) high performance (DSHTs of 43.6% and below) solar control laminated automotive glazings of thickness about 4 mm (including a 0.76 mm thick interlayer of polyvinylbutyral) suitable for use where a light transmission of at least 70% is required, for example, for front side glazings (Table 3)

can all be produced from a single glass composition, without the need to use different glass compositions for the different products.

Table I

Example	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Fe ₂ O ₃ (wt%)	1.08	0.95	1.00	0.92	1.04	1.10	1.05	1.15	0.90	1.10	0.90	0.95	0.94	0.90	1.00	1.08
Optical Ferrous state %	24.7	26.8	22.6	24.7	25.0	25.0	23.6	20.5	34.8	21.5	30.0	25.8	30.0	35.0	26.8	21.6
Co ₃ O ₄ (ppm)	-	-	6	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	-
TiO ₂ (wt%)	-	-	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.1	0.05	0.30	0.20	0.04	0.4	0.05	0.25
Thickness (nm)	3.30	3.60	3.80	3.70	3.50	3.40	3.70	3.50	3.45	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.30	3.50	3.50
LT (ILL A) %	71.3	71.8	70.4	70.7	71.6	70.1	70.5	70.3	70.2	70.5	71.4	71.4	71.2	70.4	71	71.1
DSHT %	44.7	44.2	44.4	44.9	44.0	42.3	43.2	44.7	41.0	44.9	43.2	44.9	42.8	41.3	43.5	45.0
a* (ILL C)	-8.6	-8.8	-8.9	-8.6	-9.1	-9.2	-9.3	-8.7	-10.0	-8.6	-9.6	-8.8	-9.3	-10.3	-9.1	-8.8
b* (ILL C)	1.6	0.5	2.1	0.3	1.5	2.1	2.5	4.1	-0.9	3.0	2.1	1.8	-0.1	2.1	1.0	4.7
UV ISO 8800 %	17.0	19.1	16.0	18.7	16.9	15.9	15.4	13.4	22.0	14.6	20.0	18.7	20.2	21.5	18.4	14.7
UV Pure-Moon (rectangular) %	38.4	41.3	36.8	40.7	38.2	36.6	36.0	33.0	44.3	34.8	41.0	40.0	42.6	42.0	40.0	34.2
Dominant wavelength (nm)	500	497	503	496	501	502	504	519	494	508	502	501	495	502	498	527
Purity %	3.5	4.4	3.2	4.5	3.7	3.4	3.3	2.5	6.0	2.6	3.6	3.4	5.1	4.0	4.1	2.8

Table 2

Outer pane mm	Glass composition	LT %	DSHT%	a*	b*
2.0 mm	Ex 5	78.5	54.4	-6.1	1.7
2.0 mm	Ex 6	77.5	53.1	-6.4	1.7
2.0 mm	Ex 9	77.8	51.4	-6.8	-0.1
2.1 mm	Ex 5	77.9	53.4	-6.4	1.8
2.1 mm	Ex 6	76.9	52.0	-6.6	1.7
2.1 mm	Ex 9	77.2	50.4	-7.1	-0.1
2.2 mm	Ex 5	77.3	52.3	-6.6	1.8
2.2 mm	Ex 6	76.7	51.6	-6.7	1.8
2.2 mm	Ex 9	76.6	49.3	-7.4	-0.2

Table 3

Pane thicknesses mm/mm	Glass composition	LT %	DSHT%	a*	b*
1.6/1.6	Ex 6	71.4	43.6	-8.8	2.2
1.65/1.65	Ex 6	70.8	42.8	-9.1	2.3
1.7/1.7	Ex 5	71.7	43.7	-9.0	2.4
1.7/1.7	Ex 6	70.3	42.1	-9.3	2.3
1.8/1.8	Ex 5	70.7	42.2	-9.4	2.5

Claims

1. An automotive glazing comprising a toughened glass pane having a thickness in the range 3.3 mm to 3.8 mm and a composition comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, whereby the glazing has a light transmission of at least 70% and a direct solar heat transmission of less than 46%.
2. An automotive glazing according to claim 1 wherein the toughened glass pane has a thickness in the range 3.4 mm to 3.6 mm.
3. A laminated automotive windshield comprising a glass pane having a thickness in the range 1.9 mm to 2.3 mm and a composition comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, laminated to a clear glass pane whereby the windshield has a light transmission of at least 75% and a direct solar heat transmission of less than 56%.
4. A laminated automotive windshield according to claim 1 wherein said glass pane comprising iron as colourant has a thickness of about 2.1 mm.
5. A laminated automotive windshield according to claim 3 or claim 4 wherein the clear glass pane has a thickness of about 1.5 mm.
6. A laminated automotive windshield according to any of claims 3 to 5 wherein the said glass pane containing iron as colourant is the outer pane and the clear glass pane is the inner pane.
7. A laminated automotive glazing, being a side glazing or rear glazing, comprising two glass panes each of thickness in the range 1.5 mm to 1.8 mm, preferably 1.6 mm to 1.75 mm, and a composition comprising, as colorant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, at a ferrous ion to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, whereby the glazing has a light transmission of at least 75% and a direct solar heat transmission less than 46%.

8. A process for the production of glass with optimised properties for the production of automotive glazing which comprises preparing a glass melt comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9 to 1.15% by weight, with a ferrous iron to total iron ratio in the range 0.18 to 0.35, and successively forming molten glass of said composition into glass sheet of at least two different thicknesses, one of said at least two different thicknesses being in one of the three ranges

3.3 mm to 3.8 mm

1.9 mm to 2.3 mm

1.5 mm to 1.8 mm

and another of the said different thicknesses being in a different one of said three ranges.

9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the molten glass is successively formed into glass sheet of three different thicknesses, each of said thicknesses being within a different one of said ranges.

10. Use for the production of at least two of the following products of the same tinted glass composition:

(a) a laminated automotive windshield comprising a tinted pane and a clear pane,

(b) a toughened automotive glazing,

(c) both glass panes of a laminated automotive side light or rear light.

11. Use as claimed in claim 10 of a tinted glass composition comprising, as colourant, iron in an amount of from 0.9% to 1.15% by weight.

12. Use as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the glass is used for the production of a toughened automotive glazing according to claim 1 or claim 2, and at least one other product as specified in claim 10.

13. Use as claimed in any of claims 10 to 12 wherein the glass is used for the production of a laminated automotive windshield as claimed in any of claims 3 to 6, and at least one other product as specified in claim 10.

14. Use as claimed in any of claims 10 to 13 wherein one of the products is a laminated automotive glazing as claimed in claim 7, and at least one other product as specified in claim 10.



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 1797

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
P,X	EP 0 812 678 A (TRIPLEX SAFETY GLASS LTD) 17 December 1997 * the whole document *	3-6	C03C3/087 C03C4/02 C03C4/08 B32B17/10 C03C27/12
D,X	EP 0 644 164 A (SAINT GOBAIN VITRAGE) 22 March 1995 * page 4, line 15 - line 58; claims 1-6 *	1,2,7, 10-12,14	
X	WO 94 25407 A (LIBBEY OWENS FORD CO) 10 November 1994 * page 4, line 5 - page 6, line 8 * * page 12, line 7 - line 20; example 5 *	1,2,7, 10-12,14	
X	EP 0 565 835 A (GUARDIAN INDUSTRIES) 20 October 1993 * page 4, line 3 - page 5, line 8 *	1,7, 10-12,14	
A	EP 0 677 492 A (FORD MOTOR CO) 18 October 1995 * page 2, line 46 - page 3, line 7; examples 3,4 *	1-14	
D,A	EP 0 598 305 A (PPG INDUSTRIES INC) 25 May 1994 * page 4, line 3 - line 21; examples 1,14,15,17 *	1-14	
A	WO 96 28394 A (SAINT GOBAIN VITRAGE; COMBES JEAN MARIE (FR); LISMONDE MICHEL (FR)) 19 September 1996 * page 4, line 30 - page 7, line 4 *	1-14	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 12 June 1998	Examiner Van Bommel, L
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